

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 14, 2006. Claims 5, 7 to 10, 12, 17, 26 and 28 are pending in the application, of which Claims 5, 17, 26 and 28 are independent. Claims 5, 17, 26 and 28 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7 to 10, 12, 17, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,774,803 (Kariya), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,158 (DeLorme). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to distributing service information from a service information distribution device to a personal digital assistant device. According to the invention, the number of times that the personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position is managed as a position history, and a personal digital assistant device to which the service information should be distributed is selected, among a plurality of personal digital assistant devices managed, on the basis of the position history. In this way, service information can be distributed more effectively by taking into account the number of times the personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 5 defines a service information distribution device for distributing service information to a personal digital assistant device. The device comprises a management unit that manages the number of times that the personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position, as a position history. The device also comprises a selection unit that selects,

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among a plurality of personal digital assistant devices managed by the management unit, a personal digital assistant device to which the service information should be distributed on the basis of the position history managed by the management unit, and a distribution unit that distributes the service information to the selected personal digital assistant device for storage by the personal digital assistant device.

Independent Claims 17, 26 and 28 are method, program, and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 5, 17, 26 and 28, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing the number of times that a personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position, as a position history, and selecting, among a plurality of managed personal digital assistant devices, a personal digital assistant device to which service information should be distributed on the basis of the position history.

Kariya relates to a mobile device for receiving regional information about a zone in which the mobile device is present. (See column 1, lines 6 to 16 of Kariya). Specifically, "[t]he mobile device is used to receive various pieces of regional information about traffic, maps, commodities in shops and department stores, events, etc., in a zone where the mobile device is present." (column 1, lines 11 to 14). In particular, "The mobile device 1 extracts the headlines and displays them on the display 16 so that the user may identify regional information provided by the center 4 and easily select a required piece of information. The headlines are stored in the memory 19 and are displayed on the display 16

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as and when needed so that the user may select and request information in a region where the mobile device 1 is present.” (column 7, lines 52 to 58; see also Figure 4 (describing the regional information providing sequence)).

While Kariya may disclose providing regional information to a mobile device in response to a user selection and request for information in a region where the mobile device is present, Kariya is not seen to disclose or to suggest managing the number of times that a personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position, as a position history, much less disclose or suggest selecting, among a plurality of managed personal digital assistant devices, a personal digital assistant device to which service information should be distributed on the basis of the position history.

DeLorme relates to an integrated routing/mapping information system (IRMIS) which has software that permits user selection of a particular map, area, or a point of interest. In particular, DeLorme is seen to disclose that a “user develops or alters his or her travel plan or itinerary”. (column 45, lines 52 to 53 of DeLorme (referring to item 309 of Figure 3)). In entering the rejection of Claim 5, the Office Action refers to item 309 of DeLorme and contends that item 309 discloses a “travel plan of the position information which already been located and modifying the travel plan.” (Office Action, page 3).

Without conceding the correctness of the Office Action’s characterization of DeLorme, modifying a travel plan of position information which has already been located is not seen to disclose or to suggest the number of times that a personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position. As such, DeLorme is not seen to disclose or to suggest managing the number of times that a personal digital assistant device has

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previously been associated with a position, as a position history, much less disclose or suggest selecting, among a plurality of managed personal digital assistant devices, a personal digital assistant device to which service information should be distributed on the basis of the position history.

As discussed above, neither Kariya nor DeLorme, or any permissible combination thereof, is seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of managing the number of times that a personal digital assistant device has previously been associated with a position, as a position history, and selecting, among a plurality of managed personal digital assistant devices, a personal digital assistant device to which service information should be distributed on the basis of the position history. Accordingly, independent Claims 5, 17, 26 and 28 are believed to be allowable.

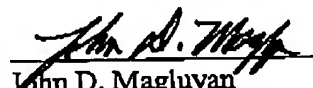
The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
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